

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Let me add only that this statement mirrors perfectly what I have learned personally, at age 86, in some 70 yrs of work in every phase and level of the educational system and also of the media, including radio news, television news, magazine editorial, association management, and twelve years as learning media consultant and producer in Chicago, the world's most competitive market. All four of my sons are active workers in the media, and all four share this experience and these strong feelings built from reality in the field.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.